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Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /034 W
----------034103 100613Z /17
R 091430Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5260

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, BDIS, LY
SUBJECT: LIBYAN GOVERNMENT DEBT TO TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COMMERCIAL CABLE PURPORTEDLY FROM J.H. MALONE, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94614, REQUESTING EMBASSY TO COLLECT LIBYAN DEBT OF SOME $149,000 WHICH AROSE THROUGH "HORRIBLE ERROR." IT APPEARS THAT IN RESPONSE TO LIBYAN CIVIL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (CAA) INVOICE FOR 149.550 LIBYAN DINARS ($508.00) COVERING TIA OVERFLIGHT OBLIGATIONS FOR FEBRUARY 1977, TIA LONDON OFFICE IN JULY 1977 WROTE UNSPECIFIED LIBYAN PARTY A CHECK FOR 149,550 "LIBERIAN DOLLARS." CHECK CLEARED THROUGH LIBYAN CENTRAL BANK AND WAS CHARGED AGAINST TIA'S LONDON BANK IN AMOUNT OF 149,550 U.S. DOLLARS ON DECEMBER 22, 1977. TIA ASKS THAT EMBASSY "INTERVENE WITH LIBYAN AUTHORITIES TO SECURE FULL REFUND ON OUR BEHALF." TIA DID NOT STATE WHAT IF ANY ACTION IT HAD UNDERTAKEN DIRECTLY WITH LIBYANS TO RECOVER.

2. EMBASSY HAS SOME CONCERN THAT IF IT TAKES UP THIS PROBLEM AS A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT MATTER IN CURRENT STATE OF POOR RELATIONS, LIBYANS MAY FILE IT ALONG WITH OTHER ISSUES FOR EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT SUCH
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AS THEIR CLAIM FOR EIGHT C-130S, AND OUR REQUEST FOR SETTLEMENT OF A $132,000 FMS DEBT WHICH HAS GONE WITHOUT A LIBYAN RESPONSE FOR SIX MONTHS. THIS FACTOR WOULD CONSTITUTE A RISK IN PARTICULAR IF WE MUST GO BEYOND INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE MATTER WITH CAA. (WE DO NOT KNOW AT THIS POINT WHICH AGENCY WOULD HAVE TO INITIATE ACTION TO WRITE TIA A CHECK.) WE

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WOULD LIKE TIA TO BE APPRISED OF OUR CONCERN BEFORE PROCEEDING.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPARTMENT AGREES EMBASSY SHOULD ACT AS AGENT OF FIRST RESORT IN THIS CASE, REQUEST THAT IT TELEPHONE TIA AND 1) INFORM THEM OF OUR CONCERN AS EXPRESSED ABOVE; 2) ASK TIA TO FORWARD AT LEAST TWO COPIES OF FRONT AND BACK SIDES OF CHECK SENT TO LIBYANS AND OF CAA INVOICE IN QUESTION; 3) ASK TIA TO INFORM US WHAT ACTION IT HAS TAKEN DIRECTLY OR THROUGH OTHER PARTIES WITH LIBYANS IN THIS MATTER, IDENTIFICATION OF ANY SUCH LIBYANS, AND ANY REACTION TO DATE.
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Message Attributes

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